

Safety On The Road

One Good Turn Deserves Another

Good drivers know how to make good turns. Turns made with safety and skill are an important part of successful driving.

Here are some reminders about making safe turns when driving a motor vehicle:

- Scan the roadway and intersection ahead, as well as the traffic behind and beside you.
- Observe and understand the road signs governing turns. Know the various shapes and colors for road signs.
- Watch for lights regulating turns at intersections and mid-block locations. Turn lanes may have special lights allowing you to safely turn across the on-coming lane.
- Be aware of the layout of traffic islands used to control vehicle turns. These islands can be raised surfaces with curbs, or merely painted markings.
- Properly position your vehicle in the correct lane well ahead of the turn.
- Reduce your speed as you approach the turn.
- Signal well in advance, but not so far ahead that your signal could be misinterpreted for another possible turn.
- Turn only when it is safe to do so. Yield to other pedestrians and vehicles in the intersection as necessary.
- Postpone your turn if you cannot get into the correct lane or if traffic is too heavy. Drive on to the next intersection to make a safe and legal turn.
- Use the hand-over-hand steering method to complete the turn rather than keeping your hand in just one place on the steering wheel. This gives you better control of the steering wheel.
- As you enter the traffic on the new street, accelerate to the speed of the traffic. Get in the correct lane and make sure your turn signal is off.
- Be considerate of other drivers making turns. Give a little – to ensure the safe and smooth flow of traffic.
- Don't stake your life on someone else's turn signal. For all you know, the driver may have forgotten the signal is on and have no intention of turning. Never pull out or turn in front of a vehicle signaling a turn until you are sure the vehicle is turning and the driver sees you.

Transport trucks and other large vehicles have extra challenges when it comes to turns. Here are some reminders:

- Whenever possible, turn from the proper lane. If you must go over lane lines or center lines to turn, make sure you can do so safely without interfering with traffic.
- When turning to the right, proceed far enough forward so the off-track wheels do not run over curbs and sidewalks and the trailer does not strike power poles, hydrants, lamp standards and other obstructions.
- The need to swing out to negotiate a turn may invite a smaller vehicle to squeeze around the corner, so be alert.
- Long loads may swing out when negotiating a corner. Drive to minimize excessive swing.

If you are driving a smaller vehicle and encounter a large truck trying to make a turn, give it plenty of room. It may have to swing into your lane. If you refrain from crowding, the truck driver will be able to complete the turn quickly and safely and everyone can go on their way.

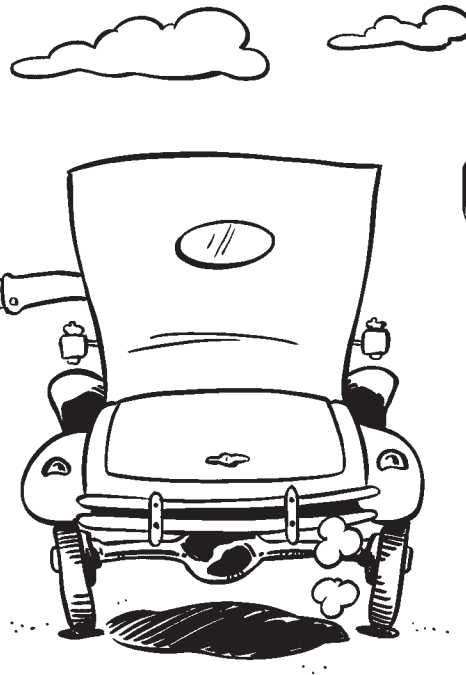
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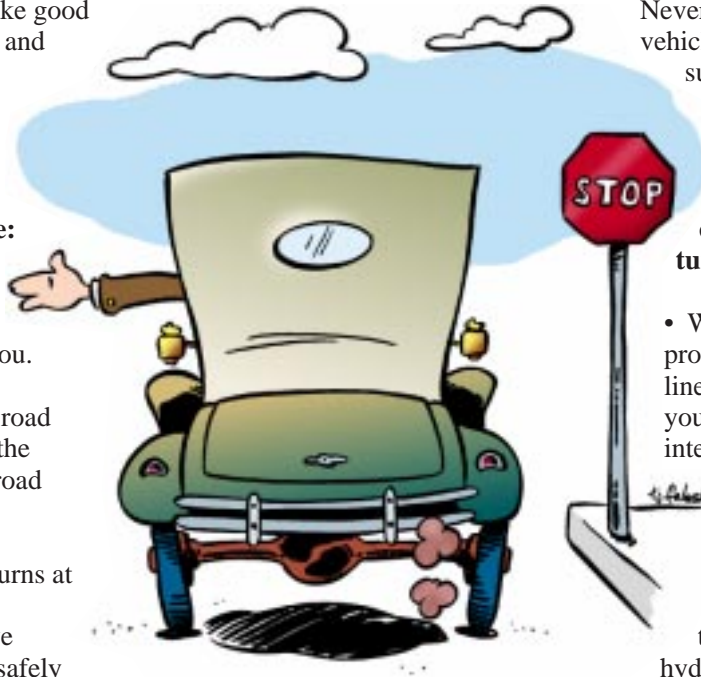
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